

REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-2, 9-11, 14-15, 20-21, 24, 26, 28, and 30 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 14, 24, 26, 28, and 30 being independent. Claims 3-6, 8, 12, 16-18, 22, 25, 27, 29 and 31 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter presented.

Claims 1, 9, 14, 20, 24, 26, 28, and 30 have been amended. Applicant submits that support for these amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added..

Claims 1-6, 8-12, 14-18, 20-22 and 24-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over WIPO Patent Publication No. 99/48296 (Shamoon et al.). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the reasons discussed below.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes, *inter alia*, the features of inputting list data of a patent necessary for encoding electronic information or for decoding encoded data, generating an encryption key based on the list data of the patent, encrypting encoded contents data by using the encryption key, and encrypting the list data of the patent. Applicant submits that Shamoon et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least these features, and therefore Claim 1 is patentable over the cited art.

Independent Claims 24 and 28 recite features similar to Claim 1 and are believed patentable for similar reasons.

As recited in independent Claim 14, the present invention includes, among others, the features of inputting electronic information representing encrypted encoded contents data and intellectual property management information including encrypted list data of a patent, wherein the list data of the patent is list data of a patent necessary for encoding the electronic information or for decoding the encoded data, decrypting the encrypted list data

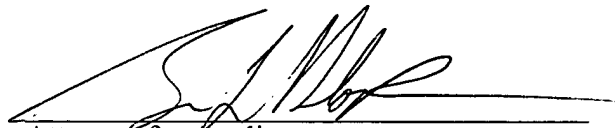
of the patent, and discriminating on the basis of the decrypted list data of the patent whether the use of the patent is authorized. Applicant submits that Shmoon et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least these features. Accordingly, Applicant submits that independent Claim 14 is patentable over the cited art.

Independent Claims 26 and 30 recite features similar to those in Claim 14 and are believed patentable for reasons similar to Claim 14.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the outstanding rejection, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. L. Klock', is written over a horizontal line.

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